



Providence **Community** Library  
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES



Annual Report  
2013—2014



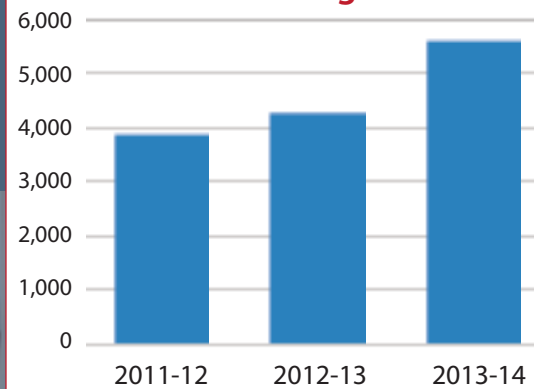
## The Numbers Tell the Story

Last year was a record year at PCL both for the number of programs presented and attendance by patrons. Demand for materials remains strong but the area where we've seen the greatest demand from our patrons, throughout the city, is for library programming – cultural programs or educational programs, for young or for the no longer so young. PCL's mission statement proudly states "Our community libraries serve as vibrant hubs within the neighborhoods of Providence, providing programs and services that respond to the needs of the community." PCL's staff listens to our patrons, responds to their needs, and creates and presents the programs they want. The community has needs and PCL responds!

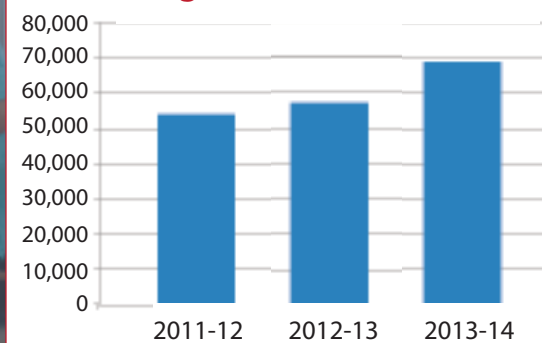
### The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Libraries	9
Number of Staff	70
Number of Patrons	54,529
Library visits	766,583
Size of Collection	363,549
Total Circulation	454,625
Number of Programs	5,602
Program Attendance	68,934
Reference Transactions	61,203
Public Computer Sessions	222,963

### Number of Programs



### Program Attendance



## LAURA MARLANE

### Executive Director

In 2009, the people of Providence decided that it was time to create a library that would be *managed by the community, for our community*. For the past five years, Providence Community Library has been doing just that.

Historically, libraries were a place for people to obtain share information and obtain books and periodicals. We still lend books, of course, plus periodicals, DVDs and many other materials (even bicycle locks!). However, libraries such as PCL have moved and changed with the times, offering an ever changing and diverse range of programming, services and resources to patrons.

We listen to you and provide the programs and services that you tell us you need. You need access to the digital world? PCL makes hundreds of computers with broadband internet access available for free, public use, and we'll teach you how to use them. You have a computer but don't have access to the internet? PCL can lend you a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot so you can take free internet service home with you, or you can connect to the Wi-Fi in and around all of our libraries with any of your devices.

You asked for cultural and education programs? This past year PCL staff and members of our library community presented a record number of programs at PCL's nine libraries. We know these were the programs you wanted, because more of you than ever – nearly 70,000 – attended these programs.

Whether it's pre-school story time hours, adult book groups, concerts, poetry writing or performing, after-school tutoring and homework help, financial literacy, ESL, CyberKids, peace flags, Summer Reading Program, school visits, arts & crafts, guitar lessons, Comics Consortium, portrait painting, films, GED and computer classes in Spanish, ballet, forums with mayoral candidates, or Cuban puppetry, PCL does it all – and more!

We have been especially excited about *Ready for K!*, our kindergarten readiness program that we are able to offer thanks to our receipt of a highly competitive grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. During its first pilot year, PCL and its partners helped prepare more than 50 young children to enter kindergarten, most of whom had no previous experience of formal early learning programs, for the start of their school years. Special thanks must go to Senator Reed as well as Senator Whitehouse and Congressman Cicilline for their help in our obtaining this grant.

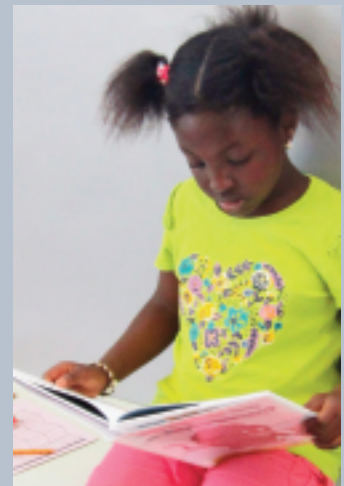
It has been an exciting and rewarding five years. With your support, PCL's future will be just as bright!



*“We listen to you and provide the programs and services that you tell us you need.”*

*The collaboration between Providence Community Library and the Providence Public School Department has never been stronger. It is so exciting to work with a partner that continuously works to ensure that they are designing programs and activities that will engage our youth. What makes PCL amazing is that they welcome everyone and they are always looking to find new, innovative ways to grab the attention of our children. PCL is supporting our work to instill the love of reading, so our children can have access to strong summer reading lists as well as incentive programs that promote reading. It is always a pleasure to work alongside them.*

— GINA M. PICARD, Supervisor K-12 Literacy & Social Studies, Providence Public School Department





*“The partnership that Festival Ballet shares with PCL is one that is so very close to my heart. This partnership offers us the opportunity to bring ballet into communities that might not otherwise have this experience. It is a first hand opportunity for children to learn about ballet as an art form, learn the written story of the classics and to try movements that dancers accomplish only after years of training. The cooperation with PCL has allowed the program to bring excitement and joy to the children. Their positive feedback has been the greatest reward. Some children have even expressed an interest in studying dance in the future.”*

— MARY ANN MAYER, School Director  
Festival Ballet Providence

*“It’s cool to come every Thursday and do crafts. I especially liked it when we had the finger painting... my friends were painting on each other.”*

— FELIX, 10 years old

## PCL’s Educational and Cultural Programs Reach a Wide Audience

- PCL achieved record numbers in both the number of programs presented and the number of community members attending programs.
- PCL’s resident poetry and rap instructor **Yunus Quddus** performed *Onomatopoeetry*, an interactive performance art and poetry event, funded in part by a grant from the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, at four libraries.
- The students of the **Comics Consortium** continued creating comics focusing their stories on seat belt safety (as part of a RI Department of Transportation education initiative) and published *Buckle It: An Anthology of Comics and Raps*, which can be found at all nine PCL libraries.
- **Festival Ballet Providence** gave multiple workshops at a number of libraries for our younger patrons based on the themes of the Peter Pan and Nutcracker ballets.
- A **teen empowerment program** funded by the Otto H. York Foundation allowed seven teens, trained by AmeriCorps members from the Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence, to create programs for their peers on such diverse topics as creative writing, origami, volunteerism and self-presentation, drawing, geography and others.
- Children at every library commemorated International Day of Peace by making peace flags that were then displayed in the libraries. The workshops were presented by the **Peace Flag Project**.

## PCL Continues its Partnership with the Providence Public School Department to Increase Student Literacy

- PCL collaborated with Inspiring Minds and PPSD, together with the Children’s Museum, Boys & Girls Club, and the Providence YMCA, in the Kids Bridge Plus program. A 4-week summer project at Bailey School, Kids Bridge Plus helped 40 rising kindergarteners get ready for kindergarten.
- When the Reservoir Avenue Elementary School suffered the temporary loss of its library space, PCL supplied 400 books, twice a month for 3 months, and library staff so that the schoolchildren could continue to have library services at their school.
- PCL once again prepared the summer reading lists for PPSD students – pre K through 12 – and purchased extra books from these lists (thanks in part to a grant from Ocean States Charities Trust) in order to support these students’ fight against summer reading loss.



## PCL Pioneers an Exciting School Readiness Program, *Ready for K!*



- PCL was one of just 40 libraries nationwide to receive a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- PCL and its partner Ready to Learn Providence developed *Ready for K!*, a school readiness program designed to reduce the achievement gap for children about to enter kindergarten but who have never before participated in a formal early learning program.
- PCL worked directly with the Providence Public School Department to recruit families during kindergarten registration at the PPSD Registration office in January and February 2014.

- Ready to Learn staff, together with Professor Benjamin Mardell, director of the Early Childhood Education Program at Lesley University, gave PCL children's staff professional development training on diverse topics, such as Rhode Island's Early Learning and Development Standards (RIELDS) and MacArthur "genius" Vivien Paley's storytelling / story-acting curriculum that recognizes the importance of dramatic play on young children's social, linguistic and narrative development.
- 300 literacy kits, with 15 unique sets, were developed specifically for *Ready for K!* families. Each kit contains a book in English and Spanish, family activities related to the book, and all the supplies needed to do those activities. These activities are aligned with RIELDS. Upon completion of the grant period, these kits will be available to all PCL patrons.
- With guidance from the professional development workshops, PCL staff designed and presented a robust 12-session curriculum for the parents and children at four of our libraries: Mt. Pleasant, Olneyville, Knight Memorial and Washington Park. Staff reported that the knowledge gained from this experience has influenced their design of other programs in using RIELDS.
- More than 50 families with 80 children participated in weekly literacy training programs for three months.
- *Ready for K!*'s first year culminated with a celebration at the Children's Museum, where more than 50 entering kindergarteners performed their storytelling and story-acting and received certificates recognizing their successful participation in this program. Over 150 attended this exciting event.



*"Samuel (pictured above—far right) a very shy little boy took part in Ready for K! During the program, he began to open up and to really enjoy storytelling and story-acting. For our graduation ceremony at the Children's Museum I hoped that Samuel would agree to have the kids act out the story he wrote. He was thrilled. That also meant that he would have to perform in front of 150 people! He became the story's director and the lead actor. His mother was amazed at how far her timid son had progressed during just a few months. We all agreed that Samuel was now ready for kindergarten."*

—TONI GARCIA Children's Specialist  
Olneyville Library



*"The response from parents in our Ready for K! program was incredibly positive. Many of our families have been eager to participate in our other programs and are often checking in to see what is new at the library."*

—GARRETT LOCKE, Children's Specialist  
Mt. Pleasant Library



*“The ESL program at PCL is a wonderful resource for the community! We have a dedicated group of volunteers who truly enjoy teaching and helping others gain the language skills that will help them improve their job opportunities and navigate more easily in the community. One student who completed my ESL class went on to enroll in the library’s GED class, and now she is planning to attend a community college. It is so rewarding to help people change the trajectories of their lives for the better.”*

— MELISSA BUTTARO, PhD,  
Volunteer ESL Teacher



*“Doing our Peace Flag Project with Providence Community Library is always a pleasure. There is a quiet grace in each of the libraries, and the kids who come to make Peace Flags always settle in to thinking about peace and their thoughts for a better world. We love working in the libraries each year.”*

— GINNY FOX, Executive Director  
Providence Peace Flag Project



## PCL Pioneers the Lending of Mobile Hot Spots

Recently, the New York and Chicago public library systems announced that they are about to begin projects focused on lending Wi-Fi hotspot devices to households lacking internet access. Which library system was the first to lend these devices to its patrons? Providence Community Library, of course!

Back in October 2012, PCL began allowing patrons to borrow Mobile Beacon 4G mobile hot spots. Now available for borrowing from Knight Memorial Library and Mt. Pleasant Library for a one-week lending period, PCL’s mobile hot spots allow patrons to use their home computers, laptops, tablets or cell phones to search for jobs, access information on healthcare and benefits, conduct research, complete homework, view entertainment, and stay connected with family and friends. The hotspots can accommodate up to eight users or Wi-Fi devices at a time, with no bandwidth usage limits – and at no cost to the PCL’s patrons.

Having paved the way for libraries in how to use mobile technology, PCL’s program has attracted national interest from groups such as the American Library Association and the Online Computer Library Center. Now two of the country’s largest library systems are jumping on board.

## Latino Programming is Central to PCL’s Mission

- PCL’s volunteer ESL teachers devoted themselves yet again to helping more than 100 adults learn the English language.
- PCL’s Spanish-language GED preparation classes continue to grow in popularity. Four classes were held, each class meeting for nine months, and 51 students graduated from the program.
- PCL continues to offer computer classes in Spanish for adults and now holds adult knitting classes and children’s karate classes in Spanish too!
- As part of National Money Smart Week, PCL held programs in Retirement Planning, Credit and Finance Management, and Home Buying and Consumer Education – all in Spanish!
- PCL hosted a pair of internationally recognized Cuban puppeteers who held a series of workshops demonstrating traditional Cuban puppet-making and performance techniques.





## Patrons Meet the Candidates at PCL Who will be the Next Mayor?

Assisting people in reaching their personal literacy goals and enhancing life skills in order to fulfill their responsibilities as citizens is central to PCL's mission. An election year provides PCL with the perfect opportunity to assist our patrons with achieving greater political literacy. How to do that? Introduce them directly to the candidates and their ideas.

Together with the League of Women Voters, PCL held Mayoral Forums in April, May and June at Knight Memorial, Wanskuck, and Rochambeau Libraries. Overflow crowds attended these three forums to hear all the then-declared candidates for mayor of Providence discuss the economy, education, transit, public safety and other issues. Of course the most significant of the issues discussed by the candidates was the importance of providing PCL with the resources it needs to continue to provide the people of Providence with the highest quality library services.

*A smiling kid, about 13 years old, frequently comes in with his case worker. He works hard on improving his reading and social skills (he's on the autism spectrum). He signed up for our Summer Reading Program and, with the help of his case worker, was soon sharing his favorite books with me. When Knight's Summer Reading Party finale party finally came, he had read almost 16 hours and earned a prize for his beautiful drawings. After the awards his case worker came up to me. "I'm taking pictures of all of this to show his parents. It's such a big deal for him, you know." "Getting an award?" I asked. "Yes," she answered, "but also that he actually walked up to receive his prize in front of all these people- it's a very big deal for him!" He didn't say anything, just looked down at the floor. Grinning.*

— ALLISON RIENDEAU, Children's Librarian  
Knight Memorial Library

*Thanks to two grants from The Champlin Foundations, PCL was able to conduct extensive repairs and renovations to the historic Smith Hill Library. With the construction of a new rear entry with elevator and a handicapped accessible restroom, Smith Hill is now accessible to all. PCL also rebuilt the library's roof, repaired its masonry and windows, and installed a parking lot.*

*With upcoming Community Development Block Grants provided by the City of Providence, PCL will renovate the library's entryway and – will install air conditioning!*



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## MARK MCKENNEY

### President, Board of Directors



Providence Community Library is five years old, and I have been privileged to serve on its Board of Directors for that entire time – the last two years as president. One of the Board's most important responsibilities is to ensure that PCL has the proper financial resources to carry out its mission. As you might imagine, that is quite the challenge!

Providence residents' tax dollars provide the bulk of our funding, but PCL is not a City department. PCL is an independent non-profit organization that provides the people of Providence with their library services.

When the City fell on lean times recently, it cut library funding. PCL continued providing services at all nine libraries, but our budget was lean, to say the least. Thankfully, the City has just restored most of what was cut, but that still only brings us back to the level of funding we received three years ago. And, compared to other cities in RI, and its peers in New England, Providence gives far less support to its libraries. Warwick, Cranston, Hartford, Worcester – all provide more than Providence does, per capita and as a percentage of the city budget.

We are about to elect a new Mayor and City Council. If we want our libraries to continue to thrive, to respond to our needs, we must tell our elected representatives that it is critical for the City to fund our libraries - the way they should be funded!

## Financial Information

Snapshot of the Providence Community Library operating finances (unaudited) for fiscal year 2013-2014 (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014). [Note: this does not include \$876,655 in grants for capital purposes.]

### Resources: \$5,209,080



- City of Providence 64%
- State of RI grant-in-aid 15%
- State of RI–Statewide Reference Resource Center 6%
- Donations 11%
- Donated Materials 2%
- Other Income/Reserves 2%

### Use of Resources: \$5,209,080



- Personnel 73%
- Library Materials 5%
- State Library Membership 4%
- Occupancy 10%
- Other Operating/Programs 8%



PCL's Head of Collection Management Services and past president of the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), Eileen Dyer, pictured with PCL founding member and Board Treasurer, Ellen Schwartz, after she honored Ellen with the RILA "Trustee of the Year" award. Doug Victor and Karen Hlynsky, not pictured, of the Friends of Knight Memorial Library, received RILA's "Meritorious Friends of the Library" award.



*Providence Community Library wishes to thank the hundreds of donors who helped make our fifth year possible and successful (gifts made from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014).*

**\$1,000,000+**

City of Providence  
State of Rhode Island (library grant-in-aid and for the Statewide Reference Resource Center)

**\$250,000+**

The Champlin Foundations (for renovations to Smith Hill Library)

**\$25,000+**

Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Mabel T. Woolley Trust  
RI Health Center Association

**\$10,000+**

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RIDOT Office of Highway Safety  
The Rhode Island Foundation  
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**\$5,000+**

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**\$2,500+**

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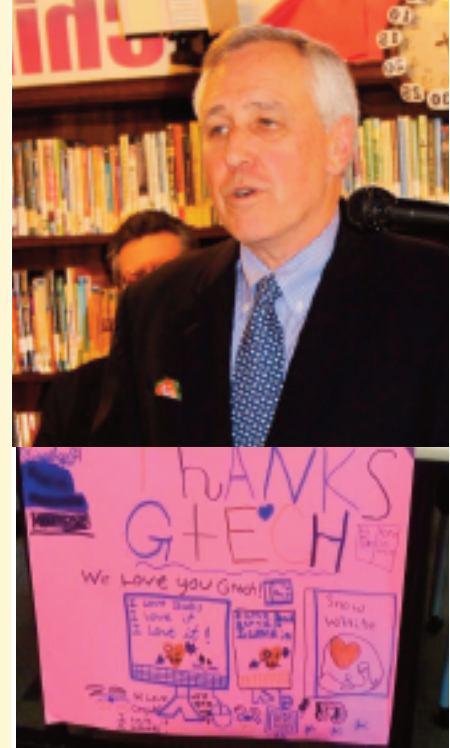
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*Bob Vincent, GTECH Senior Vice President, Human Resources & Public Affairs (pictured above) with a thank you card presented by the children of Washington Park Library, at the opening of a GTECH After School Advantage computer lab. GTECH has now donated eight After School Advantage labs to PCL.*

*GTECH was also the lead sponsor of PCL's fundraiser, Books to Bank On, that raised funds to help pay the expansion of PCL's collections, especially materials for children and youths. Other sponsors of that event were RDW Group, the Providence Journal Charitable Foundation, Adler Pollock & Sheehan, Hasbro, Hinckley Allen & Snyder, and CVS Caremark.*



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... and the many readers who  
have given their treasured  
books to our libraries.



Barbara and Walter Feldman  
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*Children's Specialist Melissa Rivera and Children's Librarian Allison Riendeau displaying the certificate awarded Knight Memorial Library by the Salem Gospel Mission international: "In recognition of your commitment to improving the reading level of neighborhood children and promoting scholarship amongst people of all ages and diverse backgrounds in the Providence Community."*



*Rochambeau Library hosted "Dear Diorama," an art contest for book lovers. Readers were challenged to create a shoebox size scene from a favorite book. Above: "Alice in Wonderland."*



*PCL partnered with a talented team of artists from AS220 Youth when it decided to transform a wall at the Washington Park Library into a colorful fantasy landscape. Based on ideas from staff and patrons, the mural is filled with characters from children's literature, all of which have special significance for the Washington Park community. The goal was to pay homage to the great tradition of Broad Street murals and to raise the visibility of the library in this South Side neighborhood.*

# Everyone in Providence has a library!



**WANSKUCK**  
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401-274-4145



**SMITH HILL**  
31 CANDACE STREET  
401-272-4140



**ROCHAMBEAU**  
708 HOPE STREET  
401-272-3780



**MOUNT PLEASANT**  
315 ACADEMY AVENUE  
401-272-0106



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90 IVES STREET  
401-331-0390



**OLNEYVILLE**  
ONE OLNEYVILLE SQUARE  
401-421-4084



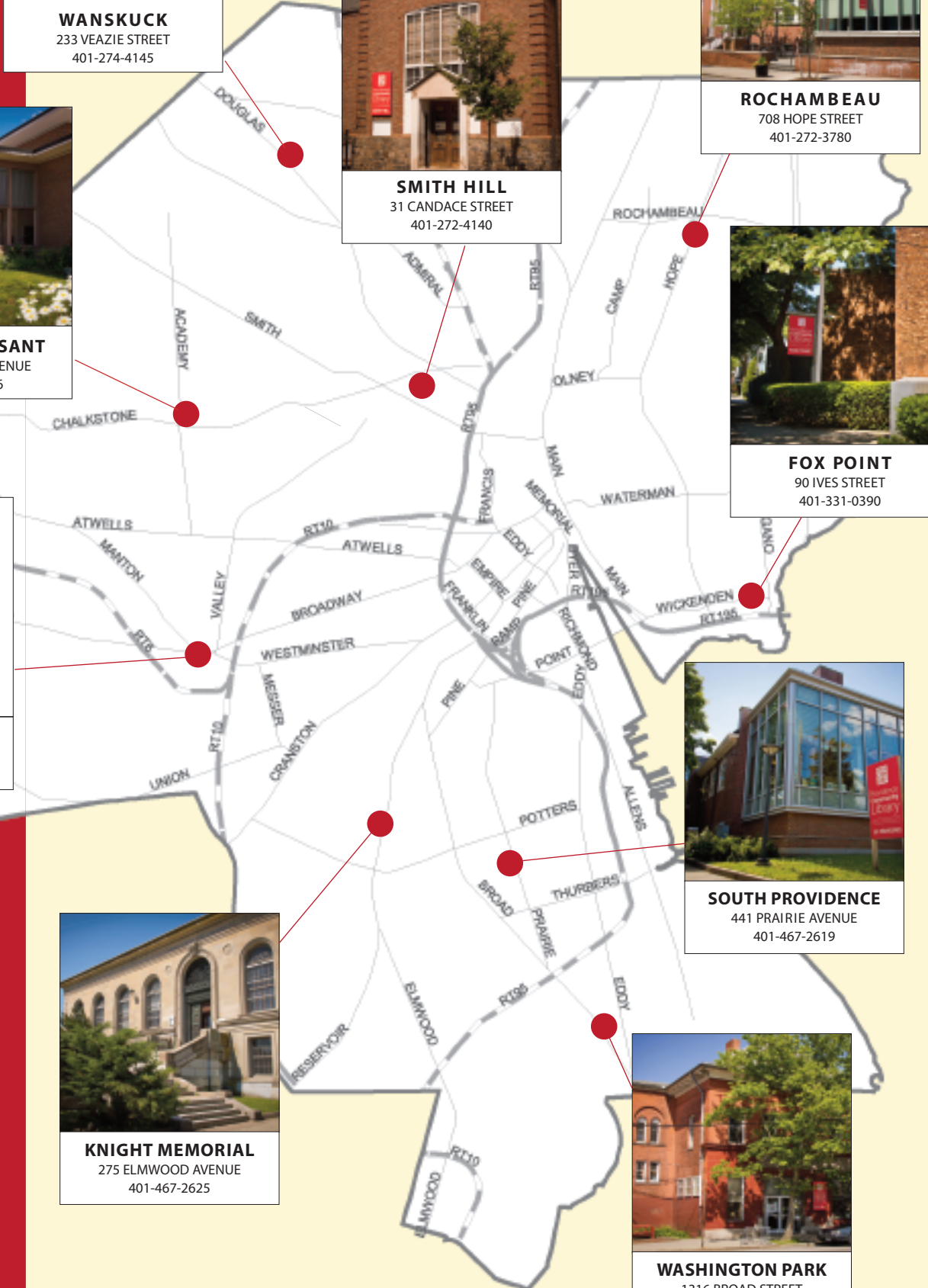
**SOUTH PROVIDENCE**  
441 PRAIRIE AVENUE  
401-467-2619



**KNIGHT MEMORIAL**  
275 ELMWOOD AVENUE  
401-467-2625



**WASHINGTON PARK**  
1316 BROAD STREET  
401-781-3136



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